



S/N 09/508,891

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	LEVESQUE ET AL.	Examiner:	B. SISSON
Serial No.:	09/508,891	Group Art Unit:	1655
Filed:	JUNE 2, 2000	Docket No.:	9555.96USWO
Title:	METHOD FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL GENES AND THERAPEUTIC TARGETS		

#148
JM
3/24/02

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 25, 2002.

By:

Kristine A. Laroche
Kristine A. Laroche

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RESPONSE

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2001, Applicants provide the following remarks. A three-month extension of time has been requested to extend the date for Response to February 24, 2002. Because February 24, 2002 falls on a Sunday, the Response is being timely filed on Monday, February 25, 2002.

REMARKS

The present application is directed to a novel assay useful in identifying whether genes are essential or dispensable. The claimed invention also provides a simple and efficient method of identifying genes which are essential under specific conditions. The essential gene test (EGT) is based on the premise that a mutation inactivating an essential gene should give rise *in vivo* to a lethal phenotype irrespective of the growth conditions. Thus, the present invention provides a novel method by which the user may define the function of thousands of sequences containing a complete open reading frame or parts thereof, or known and/or unknown genes in coding hypothetical proteins or products.